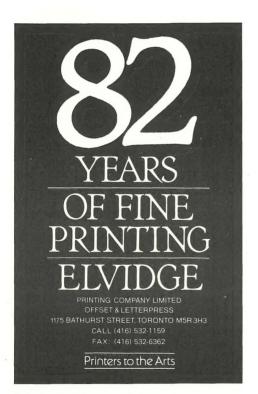


## **COSMOS**

March 25, 1991

Jane Mallett Theatre
St. Lawrence Centre
for the Arts
Toronto



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#### **WELCOME**

This is a very special evening for The Esprit Orchestra and all of the people who share in its dreams.

Cosmos is what Esprit is all about. Tonight, we proudly introduce a major work by a foreign composer to Canadian audiences; we bring to Toronto a piece of music by our own Music Director Alex Pauk; and we premiere two new pieces commissioned from eminent Canadian composers for this occasion.

This concert brings to a close Esprit's eighth season - a season with many special moments: thirty seconds of enthralled silence after Maureen Forrester's performance of Murray Schafer's touching Adieu Robert Schumann, Norman Symonds' vaudevillian acceptance of a clamorous ovation from high school students after the performance of his From the Eye of the Wind, and, this evening, the unveiling of The Esprit Orchestra's first recording, on CBC's prestigious SM5000 label.

This year, as always, it was the work of hundreds of people that soared the Orchestra to this plateau. I would like to thank the sponsor for this evening's performance, OBUS Forme Ltd. We also would like to extend a very special thank you to Suncor Inc., whose support helped make Esprit's first compact disc possible.

Mention must also be made of all of the businesses and individuals whose generous support helped to sustain the Orchestra throughout the season. Their names are displayed in their own section of this programme.

Most of all, I want to thank you, Dear Friend of Esprit. When you attend the concerts and share our passion, you give our work meaning and purpose. Enclosed with this programme is a preview of Esprit's 1991-92 season. We invite you to be a part of the excitement that is yet to come.

See you next season!

Sincerely,

Ellen Pennie President of the Board



## THE ESPRIT ORCHESTRA Alex Pauk

Music Director and Conductor

COSMOS March 25, 1991 Jane Mallett Theatre

## PROGRAMME COSMOS

An evening of music inspired by the Heavens.

Cosmos (1989) \*\*\*\*

Sotto il Segno del Sole (1987) \*\*

In the Garden of Gaea (1991) \*

Scorpius (1990) \*

Alex Pauk (Canada)

Anders Eliasson (Sweden)

Andrew MacDonald (Canada)

R. Murray Schafer (Canada)

PLEASE NOTE, THERE WILL BE NO INTERMISSION DURING THIS EVENING'S PERFORMANCE.

- World Premiere commissioned by The Esprit Orchestra with a grant from The Canada Council
- \*\* Canadian Premiere
- \*\*\* Toronto Premiere

Tonight's performance is being broadcast live on CBC's Arts National, 94.1 on the FM dial. Following the performance, CBC's coverage will continue with the premiere broadcast of The Esprit Orchestra's first compact disc recording, to be unveiled at a reception in the lower lobby, immediately after tonight's concert.

All programmes are subject to change without notice.



#### COSMOS - Composer's Note

The initial impulse for writing *Cosmos* came as I sat looking at the stars from the edge of a lake in Northern Ontario. Not only was I witnessing the grand panorama in the heavens, but I was noticing the shimmering of starlight and moonlight on the waves of the lake. A gentle wind was moving through the trees behind me.

I began to imagine and sense the "music of the spheres" which conveys or encompasses the most delicate interrelationships of the elements in the cosmos as well as the most massive and forceful ones.

The introduction of *Cosmos* is built around an extended horn solo which in this case represents the solitary soul trying to perceive and comprehend universal forces both near and far. Gradually the horn blends more and more into varied layers of orchestration and overlapping formations of sound. Delicate lattices and massive blocks appear in the musical structure and represent the radiation and energy of galaxies colliding, merging, flaring or vanishing. Ultimately, the individual solo horn is no more than a forgotten, infinitesimally small entity in the complex and dense operations of the cosmic mix.

Throughout the piece, gongs and other ringing percussion instruments have been featured to create a sense of the "great chiming of the universe" which others have called the "music of the spheres".

Cosmos is dedicated to the memory of my dear friend Marguerite Pinney.

#### ALEX PAUK (Born 1945)

Alex Pauk's creative output spans a wide range of genres and stylistic tendencies. He has composed orchestral, choral and chamber music, radiophonic montages, electronic music, theatre pieces, film scores and incidental music for the theatre. His music has been performed and broadcast in Europe, the United States, the Soviet Union, Latin America and Canada. His works include various kinds of ethnic music in the contemporary idiom. For example, his orchestral work Mirage explores the folk music of Eastern Europe through a process of harmonic and rhythmic layering. The large radiophonic piece Nomad combines electronic and acoustic instruments in a multi-track mix portraying legends of the Middle East. Magaru, an early work, comes directly out of the composer's experiences in Japan. Magaru and other works such as Beyond, Nebulae and Chant pour un Equinoxe reflect another aspect of Pauk's work - one which develops a sense of meditative or "suspended" music. Cosmos is perhaps the most important and most representative piece in this vein.

A major new work of Pauk's, written for electric orchestra, will premiere in the 1991/92 season of Toronto's New Music Concerts.



#### SOTTO IL SEGNO DEL SOLE

- Note by Ove Nordwall

"Under the Sign of the Sun" is the English translation of Sotto il Segno del Sole, which is the title of Anders Eliasson's large one-movement work for woodwind ensemble (in threes), double-bass and five percussionists. The transitions between the five sections occur almost imperceptibly, and the composer prefers to refer to the "movements" as gestalts shown in various illuminations.

The unusual ensemble is not the composer's idea, but the commissioner's (Rikskonserter, Sweden). "But," says Eliasson, "if one receives a commission for, say, a piano concerto, it is appropriate to also include the piano."

But the nature of the ensemble is less decisive than one might think. Eliasson considers each new work "as a vessel into which the ocean of music empties its water." The first ideas he attempts to describe as something both clear and diffuse; something neither visually nor even acoustically tangible, with which he must struggle through seeking and testing to formulate so as to himself comprehend. The meaning - the true content of the music - then becomes inaccessible beyond its own wordless form. To speak of music other than in subjectively motivated comparisons - except in purely technical terms - is not, according to Eliasson, really possible.

Nevertheless he often gives his works more than purely descriptive titles. Though the cembalo quintet (1985) - to mention one of his best works in recent years - is called *Quintetto per il cembalo e quartetto d'archi*, the clarinet quintet (1980) is entitled *Ombra* (twilight, shadow, phantasm) and a work for strings which was written parallel to the sun sign piece in 1987 is called - as always, in Italian - *Ostaculi* (obstacle - one could also say restraining ropes).

By "Segno del Sole," Eliasson means the ancient cross symbol which has been recognized as a holy sign for thousands of years, but which in our time has been rendered unusable. He calls it the key to the conceptual world of the piece in which the blinding light, which gradually seems to appear as an aura in the empty space between notes, stands alongside clear-eyed resignation and the abandonment of all pretensions.

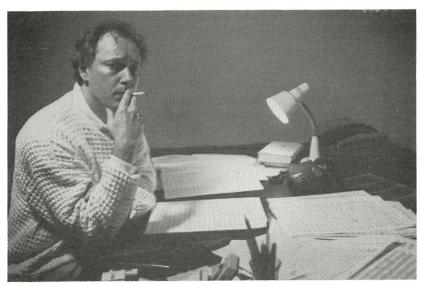
Common to both recent works (Ostaculi and Sotto il Segno...) are a nearly naive, simple, melodic character - "innocent," says the composer - and that Eliasson has gone a long way back to his own very beginnings, though now with experiences and memories from a long journey.



#### ANDERS ELIASSON

Born in Borlange on 3rd April 1947, he studied 1966-1972 at the State Academy of Music in Stockholm, where his teachers were Ingvar Lidholm (composition) and Valdemar Soderholm (harmony and counterpoint). He was a member of the Artistic Committee of the Electronic Music Studio Foundation (1972-1973). His distinctions include the City of Stockholm Artist's Fellowship in 1973, the Christ Johnson Prize in 1974 and the Royal Academy of Music Prize in 1983.

In a number of important works from the beginning of the 1970s onwards, Eliasson based his art on the concept of "logos", the implication being that his music was a bid to view existence in a holistic perspective. Ever since then his tonal language has possessed an inexplicable but unmistakable poetic impress which conveys an intensive spirituality. The essence of his working method is careful detailing, the removal of all superfluous matter and, instead, the utmost prominence for the most essential components. In style Eliasson's music has progressed from a terse, austere and tortuous structure to a broad fluency which includes everything from feverish intensity to ardent contemplative beauty. Tider (1973) is characterised by subdued verses, bizarre collisions of style and fragmentary content. Canto del vagabondo, written six years later, is a seamless, vigorously shaped music with several different strata gliding in and out of one another. This composition is a high watermark of his creativity but, still more important, it sets the course of his subsequent artistic development.





#### IN THE GARDEN OF GAEA - Composer's Note

Sitting alone in a luxuriant garden one night, experiencing its transformation during the transition from night to day, I began dreaming of Hesiod's creation myth and of Gaea, the earth goddess, whose breath still issues from the gaping earth at Delphi, and now in the mist of my garden...this garden "in obscuro" has become the unformed Chaos - uncertain shapes and colours, unpredictable movements - all hidden potential from which the enormous Gaea now emerges. She utters a haunting melody describing her essence while parthenogenetically giving birth to the tall mountains and barren waters. Then, in the pre-dawn stillness, when only the thoughts of birds are heard, she bears her son Uranus, the vast sky, as she sleeps.

She awakens to the sudden and rapid nascency of plants, birds and beasts as the smiling Uranus showers fertile rain down upon her from the mountains high above. This rain makes the streams and rivers flow and fills all the hollow places to form pools, lakes and seas. Thereupon up spring the multitudinous forms of life - all teeming and variegated yet each with some motif traceable to Gaea.

Upon seeing the giant Titans, the violent Cyclopses and the horrible Hundred-handed monsters commencing forth from Gaea, Uranus, in his loathing of them, stuffs them forcibly back inside her. In spite of her enormous size, Gaea groans mournfully under the increasing strain. Seeking revenge, she forges a sickle for her son Cronus, the cunning trickster, who waits in ambush. Now Uranus stretches over Gaea, drawing black Night behind him, intent on fulfilling his lustful desires. Cronus quickly reaches out with the sickle and shears the organs from his own father. As he throws these over his shoulder, drops of blood splash onto Gaea and from these sprout the Spirits of Vengeance and huge Giants. The genitals of Uranus finally fall into the great Ocean, and in the foam issuing forth from them a girl begins to grow. She develops into the beautiful Aphrodite who, emerging from the waves and spiralling upward, is soon enveloped by the celestial clouds.

Aroused from my slumber by the song of a nearby robin, I see my garden in the bright morning sun, alive and buzzing. Certain flowers have opened since yesterday and one has wilted and fallen to the ground.

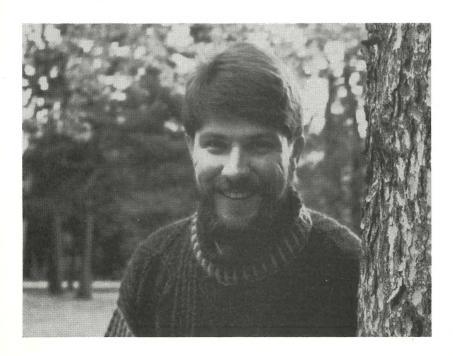
#### ANDREW P. MACDONALD (Born 1958)

Andrew P. MacDonald was born in Guelph, Ontario and there received his early musical education. His studies as a guitarist and composer continued in London, Ontario and later at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, where he received his Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees in composition.



MacDonald has won many national and international composition contests, including the Washington International Competition for String Quartet Composition (2nd Prize) and the Omaha Symphony Guild New Music Competition (1st Prize). He has also won the Sir Ernest MacMillan Award on three occasions (two golds and a silver). He served as Composer-in-Residence for Bishop's University during 1988-89 and concurrently held the same title at the Canadian Opera Company, who staged the premiere of his one-act opera, *The Unbelievable Glory of Mr. Sharp*, in May 1989.

Recently, MacDonald was awarded a grant from Fonds FCAR for research into pitch-language strategies. Since 1986 he has gradually evolved the application of these upon formal structures, character delineations and pitch-collection migrations in an attempt to reconcile tonal allusion with the free chromatic and thereby create an all-inclusive language with maximum flexibility and fluidity. His works have been performed in England, Norway, France, the United States and Canada and have been broadcast by the CBC. A compact disc of his chamber music is scheduled for release on the S.N.E. label early in 1991. Also active as a professor of composition at Bishop's University, as a solo guitarist and as cofounder of l'Ensemble Musica Nova, MacDonald currently makes his home in the scenic Eastern Townships of Quebec.





#### R. MURRAY SCHAFER (Born 1933)

R. Murray Schafer, arguably Canada's most widely recognized and honoured composer, is not only a familiar name in Canada, but has had important performances throughout the world. His writings, particularly on music education and the world soundscape, have been translated into five languages. He is known not only as a composer, but as environmentalist, educator, literary scholar, visual artist and man of the theatre. These aspects of his work are often integrated in his large music theatre works such as *Princess of the Stars* and *Ra*.

Mr. Schafer's orchestral music reveals his ambivalence about the orchestral form. He has parodied its repertoire (Son of Heldenleben), sabotaged its concert hall conventions (No Longer than Ten Minutes), and introduced a real snowmobile on stage (North/White). In other works, he has added theatrical movement to the orchestra's performance (Cortege), and has scattered musicians, plus solo voices, to all corners of the auditorium (Lustro).

Mr. Schafer's honours include the Honegger Prize, the Fromm Foundation Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the William Harold Moon Award, the Jules Leger Prize, the Canadian Music Council Medal and the International Glenn Gould Prize.

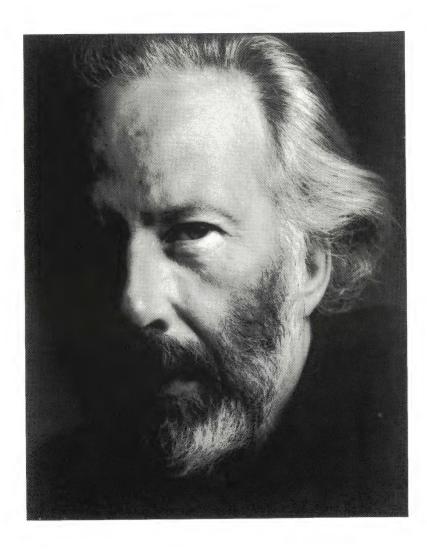
#### SCORPIUS - Composer's Note

One of the advantages of living in the country is that one is less troubled by noise pollution and light pollution. The dome of escaped and unproductive light that arises over every city at night is the visual equivalent of the swill and swell of ambient noise released in the city by day. Night-time lighting has expanded much faster than the population in Western countries; by one estimate it has quadrupled in intensity every decade since 1960 as new human settlements are lit and overlit.

Like noise pollution, excessive lighting chokes off all appreciation of distance. It shrinks the world; everything seen or heard becomes finite, close and human-made. Only in the dark country sky are the stars released to their infinity. They appear so tiny; they make us feel smaller. They draw us into another universe, one we will never dominate, or destroy or even understand.

I have no idea why the present piece is entitled *Scorpius* or what its relationship might be to the constellation of stars which barely rises above the southern horizon on summer evenings. With Antares at its head, it appears vigorous and resilient, shaped like a fish hook. Is that why "my" *Scorpius* is barbed and unsettled? The Greeks said Scorpius stung Orion to death since he sets as Scorpius rises. Am I trying to sting someone with "my" *Scorpius*? I'll let the listener decide.







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#### ALEX PAUK - Music Director and Conductor

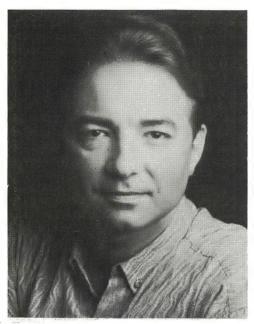


Photo - Linda Corbett

Alex Pauk has been a leading proponent of new music in Canada since 1971. After graduating from the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music in 1970, he participated in the Ontario Arts Council's Conductors' Workshop for two years, and did further work at the Toho Gakuen School of Music in Tokyo.

Both as a composer and a conductor, Mr. Pauk has been deeply involved with creating new music. As a founding member of such groups as Arraymusic and Days Months and Years to Come, he developed the skills and philosophy which lead to his founding The Esprit Orchestra as a primary force in the presentation of new Canadian music for orchestra.

Mr. Pauk's own orchestral compositions are widely performed. His works include concert music, film scores, radiophonic montages and music theatre pieces. Through his world-wide travels he not only brings diverse influences to his own creations, but is also able to search out music by foreign composers to present to Canadian audiences. At present, Mr. Pauk lives in his native Toronto and freelances as a composer and conductor in addition to being the Music Director of The Esprit Orchestra.



#### THE ESPRIT ORCHESTRA

March 25, 1991, Jane Mallett Theatre Alex Pauk - Music Director and Conductor

Violin I: Fujiko Imajishi

(Esprit Concertmistress)

Carol Fujino Marie Berard

Dominique Laplante Jennifer Saleebey

Jared Erhardt

Valerie Kuinka Viola:

> Rhyll Peel Sylvia Lange Beverley Spotton

Cello: Paul Widner

> Elaine Thompson Zoltan Rozsnyai Timothy McCoy

Violin II: Diane Tait Ron Mah

> Javne Maddison Paul Zevenhuizen Yakov Lerner Janie Kim

Marie-Paule Parcells

Bass:

Roberto Occhipinti David Young

Robert Speer

Flute:

Douglas Stewart Christine Little Maria Pelletier

Oboe:

Lesley Young Karen Rotenberg

Peter Voisey

Clarinet:

Gwillym Williams Richard Thomson

Greg James

Bassoons:

Jerry Robinson William Cannaway

Stephen Mosher

Horn:

Gary Pattison **Guv Edrington** Debbie Stroh Nancy Flood

Trumpet:

Ray Tizzard Robert Sutherland James Gardiner

Percussion:

Trombone: Robert Ferguson

David Archer Herb Poole

Michael Cote

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March 25, 1991, Jane Mallett Theatre

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As a founding patron, Suncor Inc. witnessed Esprit's launch in 1983. Since then, the Orchestra has grown and flourished, attracting an ever-widening and appreciative audience at home and on the international scene.

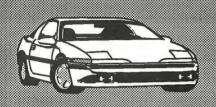
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On Tuesday, March 26, following the final performance of its 1990/91 season, The Esprit Orchestra will hold its first concert for an all-student audience. The educational event, to be held at Humberside Collegiate Institute Auditorium, will feature works taken from the last programme of the season, including Scorpius, Cosmos, and In the Garden of Gaea. The concert is open to all educators and their students, and people wishing to order tickets should contact the Orchestra directly.

If you are an educator, student or parent, and would like more information about the **TOWARD A LIVING ART** programme, please contact the Esprit offices.

#### **COFFEE CHATS**

Esprit holds COFFEE CHATS prior to each concert. These informal gatherings give members of the public an opportunity to meet composers, musicians, and our conductor in a musically informative social context. For more information, or to ensure that you receive an invitation to the next Coffee Chat, please visit our table in the lobby, or call our office.

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Frank Roberts

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